



# AIMS

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## **Drug and Alcohol Policy for Students**

**May 2025**

The American Institute of Medical Sciences & Education is a Drug & Alcohol Free Campus and has adopted and implemented programs and policies to prevent the unlawful possession, use, sale, manufacturing, or distribution of controlled and illicit drugs by students and employees. This includes the unlawful sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or illegal/misuse of any prescription drug.

### **Standards of Conduct**

*The policy includes the following:*

- Prohibition against the unlawful presence of controlled substances on-campus, during AIMS sponsored or affiliated off-campus events and programs (meetings, etc.) and during off-campus educational experiences (clinical internships, Earn While You Learn, etc.).
- Prohibition against the unauthorized presence of alcoholic beverages on-campus, during AIMS sponsored or affiliated off-campus events and programs (meetings, etc.) and during off-campus educational experiences (clinical internships, Earn While You Learn, etc.).
- Prohibition against being under the influence of any controlled substance and/or alcoholic beverage on-campus, during AIMS sponsored or affiliated off-campus events and programs (meetings, etc.) and during off-campus educational experiences (clinical internships, Earn While You Learn, etc.).

### **Consequences of Violation of Policy**

All members of the AIMS community are expected to comply with applicable local, state and federal laws regarding the possession, use or sale of alcohol or other drugs, whether on or off-campus, and the AIMS Drug & Alcohol Policy. Any student who violates policies or applicable law may be subject to disciplinary actions. Disciplinary actions for students may include, but are not limited to, sanctions by the Student Conduct Committee as well as other formal institutional sanctions (up to expulsion). The severity of the sanctions will depend, in part, on whether there have been repeated violations and on the seriousness of the misconduct. In addition to the internal consequences for violation of policy, students may be subject to external civil and criminal penalties.

### **Random Drug Screening**

Any AIMS student who demonstrates behavior suspected consistent with the use of drugs or alcohol may be subject to drug testing. Students testing positive will be required to meet with the Student Affairs Coordinator and be subject to discipline or mandatory therapeutic and/or educational intervention.



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## Medical Amnesty

AIMS seeks to promote a community of care through providing Medical Amnesty for students who seek medical attention related to medical emergencies for alcohol and drugs. To ensure that a student obtains the help they need for these potential life-threatening emergencies, AIMS seeks to reduce barriers to seeking assistance.

- No student seeking emergency medical treatment for themselves or for whom medical treatment was sought - due to the effects of drug or alcohol use - will be subject to discipline for violations pertaining to drug or alcohol possession/use as outlined in the AIMS Drug & Alcohol Policy.
- No student seeking assistance for someone else in need of emergency medical treatment will be subject to violations pertaining to alcohol possession/use as outlined in the AIMS Drug & Alcohol Policy.

### AIMS Medical Amnesty:

- 1. Eliminates judicial consequences for:**
  - a. student seeking assistance (individual seeking emergency medical assistance)
  - b. the assisted student (individual for whom emergency medical assistance was sought)
  - c. others involved (individual/s seeking medical assistance for someone else)
- 2. Applies when the allegations under the Drug & Alcohol Policy involve:**
  - a. underage consumption of alcohol
  - b. use of drugs
  - c. disorderly conduct
- 3. Does not preclude disciplinary action regarding other violations, such as:**
  - a. causing or threatening physical harm
  - b. sexual violence
  - c. damage to property
  - d. fake identification
  - e. unlawful provision of alcohol or other drugs
  - f. harassment

### Limitations:

- In order for this protocol to apply, the assisted student and/or involved parties (if mandated) must comply with stipulations and interventions (examples: administrative meeting, counseling, education, etc.), as assigned by the Institution. \*Stipulations/interventions are dependent on the level of concern for student health and safety.
- Failure to complete mandated and/or recommended stipulations/interventions (within the designated period) will normally result in revocation of judicial amnesty.



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- In cases of repeated Drug & Alcohol Policy violations, the Institution reserves the right to take disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis - regardless of the manner in which the incident is reported. Further, the Institution reserves the right to adjudicate any case in which the violations are determined egregious.
- AIMS reserves the right to report truthfully to licensing bodies.

### **Support & Education Resources**

Along with disciplinary consequences, AIMS is committed to providing resources and education - as appropriate - to assist members of the community. The school maintains Drug & Alcohol education information which can be obtained from the Student Affairs Coordinator. Students may also self-report drug & alcohol issues/concerns and/or voluntarily request confidential professional assistance without stigma or penalty by scheduling an appointment with the Student Affairs Coordinator or designee. The Institution also offers educational workshops/events through the campus wellness initiative - Aim for Wellness! (wellness@aimseducation.edu). Drug and Alcohol Counseling and Rehabilitation are available through [www.drugfreenj.org](http://www.drugfreenj.org) or by calling 973-467-2100. The school's goal is to provide all students with effective and compassionate assistance before irreversible harm is done to their health, educational process, eligibility for licensure, or ability to function competently upon graduation.

### **Student Conduct Process**

Students in violation of the AIMS Drug & Alcohol Policy are subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Student Conduct Committee. The student conduct process is intended to protect the interests of the AIMS community as well as its clinical partners/affiliates and address behavior inconsistent with the code of conduct. Interventions and sanctions are intended to assist the student in developing effective decision-making in accordance with community standards.

**Note:** Violations applicable to the AIMS Drug & Alcohol Policy will be adjudicated in accordance with the outlined potential consequences listed below. Drug & Alcohol Policy violations that involve additional Institutional Student Code of Conduct violations may also be subject to applicable Student Code of Conduct Policy sanctions.

### **Levels of Potential Consequences**

Please Note: The summary of violations captures the more common alcohol and other drug offenses, but not all possible offenses.

#### **First Offense**

- Verbal warning with a written summary of discussion, recommended interventions, potential sanctions for recurring violations.

4500 New Brunswick Ave, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Phone: (908) 222-0002 Fax: (908) 222-6111

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- Intervention Meeting with Student Affairs Coordinator or designee
- Follow-up meeting with Student Affairs Coordinator

*Summary of violations:*

- Underage possession and/or consumption of alcohol, possession of alcohol on campus, at an AIMS affiliated activity, etc.
- Possession and/or use of drugs, controlled substances, and/or paraphernalia; misuse/abuse of prescription drugs on campus, at an AIMS affiliated activity, etc.

## **Recurring or Severe Offense**

### Level 1

- Written warning. \*Warning remains on file indefinitely unless otherwise noted.
- Intervention Meeting with the Student Affairs Coordinator or designee
- Satisfactory completion of a defined drug or alcohol education program.

### Level 2

- Written warning. \*Warning remains on file indefinitely unless otherwise noted.
- Satisfactory completion of a recommended alcohol or drug counseling program.
- Periodic intervention meetings with Student Affairs Coordinator or designee
- **Disciplinary Probation** for an appropriately defined period of time, after which the student is eligible to return to normal status.

### Level 3

*Based on the severity of misconduct:*

- **Temporary Suspension** – separation for a period not exceeding 5 days. Student is not allowed on campus during this period.

OR

- **Institutional Suspension** – separation for an appropriately defined period, after which the student is eligible to resume coursework.
- Satisfactory completion of a recommended alcohol or drug counseling program.
- Periodic intervention meetings with Student Affairs Coordinator or designee

### Level 4

- **Expulsion** - academic separation from AIMS with no consideration for readmission.

*Summary of violations:*

- Drug Possession of controlled substance with an intention to distribute or deliver
- Distribution or delivery of controlled substance
- Distribution or delivery of prescription drug or inhalant
- DUI/DWI (drug or alcohol-related)

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- Manufacture/growing controlled substance
- Supplying/providing/purchasing alcohol for underage students
- Public intoxication/disorderly conduct
- Possession of common containers and kegs
- Drinking games; possession of rapid consumption devices

### **Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program**

*The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act requires institutions of higher education to develop a drug and alcohol abuse prevention program.*

AIMS Education is a drug and smoke free campus for students, and employees, and has adopted and implemented programs and policies to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students and staff. More information about this program is available on our website and through our administrative offices.

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 includes provisions that authorize federal and state judges to deny certain federal benefits, including student aid, to persons convicted of drug trafficking or possession. A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for FSA funds and render him/her ineligible for the funds until the Federal and State standards are again met by the individual.

### **Health Risks Associated with the Use and Abuse of Illicit Drugs and/or Alcohol**

- The use of illegal drugs, and the misuse of prescription and other drugs, poses a serious threat to health.
- The use of marijuana may cause impairment of short-term memory, comprehension, and ability to perform tasks requiring concentration. Additionally, the use of marijuana also may cause lung damage, paranoia, and possible psychosis.
- The use of narcotics, depressants, stimulants, and hallucinogens may cause nervous system disorders and possible death as the result of an overdose. Illicit inhalants can cause liver damage.
- Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses of alcohol significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident.
- The use of even small amounts of alcohol by a pregnant woman can damage the fetus. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increases the likelihood of a variety of aggressive acts.
- Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairment in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Heavy use may result in chronic depression and suicide and may also be associated with the abuse of other drugs.



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- Very high doses can cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce effects described above for very high doses.
- Long-term, heavy alcohol use can cause digestive disorders, cirrhosis of the liver, circulatory system disorders and impairment of the central nervous system, all of which may lead to early death.
- Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence, and at least 15-20 percent of heavy users eventually will become problem drinkers or alcoholics if they continue drinking.
- Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations and convulsions, which can be life threatening.
- There are significant risks associated with the use of alcohol and drugs. Risks include and are not limited to - impaired academic or work performance; lost potential; financial problems; poor concentration; blackouts; conflicts with friend and others; vandalism; theft; murder; sexual assault and other unplanned sexual relationships; spouse and child abuse; sexually transmitted diseases; and unusual or inappropriate risk-taking which may result in physical or emotional injury or death.

## **Drug and Alcohol Programs - Counseling, Treatment, and Rehabilitation**

Here is a list of drug and alcohol programs available in New Jersey.

- Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey  
<http://www.drugfreenj.org/>
- Central Jersey Intergroup (Alcoholics Anonymous for Central Jersey)  
<http://centraljerseyintergroup.org/>
- Alcoholics Anonymous  
<https://www.aa.org/>
- Narcotics Anonymous  
<https://www.nanj.org/>
- Substance Abuse Facilities in NJ  
<https://www.addicted.org/new-jersey-long-term-drug-rehab.html>
- Advanced Recovery Systems  
<https://www.drugrehab.com/>

## **Notice of Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations**

Convictions for the use or sale of drugs no longer affect a student's eligibility for federal student aid.

## **Notification of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program**

AIMS Education abides by The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students and employees of AIMS Education have received this policy which explains the following:

- Dangers of drug and alcohol abuse in the school/workplace

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- Policy maintaining a drug-free environment
- List of available drug and alcohol counseling, treatment, rehabilitation programs
- Penalties that may be imposed for drug and alcohol abuse violations occurring in the school

As a Student / Employee (circle one) of AIMS Education, I have received and understand the above-mentioned Drug and Alcohol policy. I further understand that I am required to abide by all state and federal laws regulating controlled substances.

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Student Name

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Administrator Name

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Signature

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Date

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Signature

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Date